AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2000

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE-1999-2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2734

Introduced by Assembly Member Cox (Coauthor: Assembly Member Bock)

February 25, 2000

An act to amend Section 295.7 9105 of the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2734, as amended, Cox. Vehicles: disabled veterans.

Under existing law, for purposes of the Vehicle Code, the term "disabled veterans" is defined as a person who, among other things, suffers from certain categories of disabilities including a disability that has been rated at 100% of the Department of Veterans Affairs or the military service from which the veteran was discharged, due to a diagnosed disease or disorder that substantially impairs or interferes with the person's mobility. Existing law also exempts, among others, a disabled veteran from paying specified fees.

This bill would eliminate the requirement that the described disability be due to a diagnosed disease or disorder that substantially impairs or interferes with the person's mobility specify that veterans with certain disability ratings or receiving certain disability compensation would be exempt from those fees.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

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The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 295.7 of the Vehicle Code is

2 SECTION 1. Section 9105 of the Vehicle Code is 3 amended to read:

9105. (a) The fees specified in this code, except fees 4 for duplicate plates, certificates, or cards, need not be paid for any of the following vehicles, that are of a type subject to registration under this code, and that are not used for transportation for hire, compensation, or profit, 9 when owned by any former American prisoner of war, 10 any disabled veteran, any veteran with a disability rated 11 at 100 percent by the Department of Veterans Affairs or 12 the military service from which the veteran was 13 discharged, any veteran in receipt of disability 14 compensation at the 100 percent rate as a result of a service connected disability, or any Congressional Medal 16 of Honor recipient:

- (1) Any passenger motor vehicle.
- (2) Any motorcycle.
- (3) Any commercial motor vehicle of less than 8,001 19 20 pounds unladen weight.
- (b) The exemption granted by subdivision (a) shall 22 not extend to more than one vehicle owned by any 23 former American prisoner of war, any disabled veteran, or any Congressional Medal of Honor recipient and is applicable to the same vehicle as described in subdivision (b) of Section 10783 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.
- (c) (1) The department may require anv 28 veteran applying for an exemption under this section to submit a certificate signed by a physician or surgeon 30 substantiating the disability.
- (2) The department may require any person applying 31 32 for an exemption under this section for either of the following reasons to do any of the following:
- (A) By reason of the person's status as a former 34 35 prisoner of war, to show, by satisfactory proof, his or her 36 former prisoner-of-war status.
- (B) By reason of the person's status of receiving the 37 38 Congressional Medal of Honor, to show, by satisfactory

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proof, that he or she is a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.

(d) This section shall become operative on July 1, 1999. amended to read:

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- 295.7. A "disabled veteran" is any person who, as a 6 result of injury or disease suffered while on active service with the armed forces of the United States, suffers any of the following:
 - (a) Has a disability that has been rated at 100 percent by the Department of Veterans Affairs or the military service from which the veteran was discharged.
- 12 (b) Is so severely disabled as to be unable to move 13 without the aid of an assistant device.
 - (e) Has lost, or has lost use of, one or more limbs.
- (d) Has suffered permanent blindness, as defined in 15
- 16 Section 19153 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.